

Anthrocera achilleæ, Esp., added to the British list.

By E. A. COCKAYNE, F.E.S.

In October, 1907, I received from Mr. W. Renton, as *Anthrocera purpuralis*, some specimens of an Anthrocerid which did not appear to me to be that species. On comparing them with those in the British Museum, I found that they were certainly not *A. purpuralis* var. *interrupta*, Standl., to which variety they approximate most closely. They bore a strong resemblance, however, in general characters to *A. achilleæ*, Esp., especially to some specimens from Bergün, labelled ab. *viciae*, Hübner, which differed from typical *A. achilleæ* in the much smaller size of the spots, especially the sixth, and the thinner, rougher, scaling of the wings, and in the greater hairiness of the abdomen. The Scottish specimens present these last characters in a still more marked degree, and a minute examination of the limits reached by the red scales showed that they corresponded exactly with some of the Bergün specimens. The antennæ, too, showed some variation, though always having the two terminal segments red, a character absent in *A. purpuralis*: some, both from Scotland and Bergün, have a patch of yellow scales on the dorsal surface of the last segment but one. Mr. Pierce kindly examined the appendages in the male, and found that they belong to the *jilipendulæ* and not to the *purpuralis* group. He further states that they appear to be identical with those of *A. achilleæ*. There is little doubt that Mr. Renton has discovered an isolated colony of this species near Oban, an insect not previously recorded from the British Isles.

I hope later in the year to hear further, and give a more detailed account of the imago, which is, perhaps, worthy of a varietal name. Mr. Renton hopes to have a more complete account of its habits in this country. For help in determining to what species these insects belong I must thank Sir George Hampson, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Tutt, Dr. Chapman, and Mr. Prout.

Anthrocera achilleæ, Esp., as a British species.

By J. W. TUTT, F.E.S.

Mr. Cockayne is to be congratulated on his determination in showing this species to be British. In spite of the present writer's offhand opinion that a couple of specimens submitted to him appeared rather to be *A. jilipendulæ* than anything else, Mr. Cockayne worked away at the specimens in the British Museum collection until he found some examples of *A. achilleæ*, captured by Zeller at Bergün, which came quite near to those he had from Scotland. On our then making a second and more careful examination we detected several minor items that supported this view, and a number of ♂ *A. achilleæ* from different continental localities that we could fortunately supply for dissection, has enabled Mr. Cockayne, with Mr. Pierce's help, to finally add this species to the fauna of the British Isles.

The species is an exceedingly abundant one in most of the localities in which we have collected on the continent, abounding in most of the hills of south-eastern France, northern Italy, and the valleys of Switzerland, Austria, etc. Standinger notes (*Cat.*, 3rd ed., p. 382) it as distributed through "eastern, south-eastern, and central Europe, Belgium, north Italy, Switzerland, Bithynia, Pontus, Armenia, Syria,